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BOOK REVIEWS

The School System of Norway. By DAVID ALLEN ANDERSON. Boston: Richard G. Badger, The Gorham Press, 1913. Pp. 232. \$1.25.

The appearance of Dr. Anderson's book is very timely. Our pedagogical literature is well provided with comparative studies of education in foreign countries. Unfortunately, however, the Scandinavian countries have remained, if not entirely unrepresented, at least represented only by fragmentary and misleading accounts. This is greatly to be regretted, since we could not but have received stimulating impulses from these countries where general education is of such a high standard and which socially, morally, and politically are among the most progressive countries in the world.

By his very able and accurate presentation of the school system of Norway, Dr. Anderson has very satisfactorily supplied a part of this deficiency, and it is to be hoped that he may find occasion in subsequent volumes to deal with the school systems of the sister-countries, Denmark and Sweden.

Dr. Anderson's book contains a wealth of information, technical and general, presented in a direct and logical manner with the greatest possible clearness and a commendable brevity, characteristics which render his book especially convenient both for reference and for class use. Here and there in the interpretive conclusions one might have desired a little less brevity, since the pedagogical clear-sightedness and independence of views of which the author has manifested his capability render these conclusions very valuable.

The book is an interesting, stimulating, and reliable presentation of the educational tendencies in Norway.

E. J. VICKNER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Animal Communities in Temperate America. By VICTOR L. SHELFORD. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1913. Pp. xiii+362. \$3.00.

Animal Communities in Temperate America is a serial account of the animal groups found in various spots about Chicago; it is just as true an account of those occurring in any similar district in the Northern United States or Southern Canada, and hence it answers many questions which have asked themselves of a great many people. Among the chapters are descriptions of certain economic phases and of the animal communities of large and of small lakes, of ponds, of streams, of forests, of thickets, and of prairies, and of their conditions and controlling factors. Although Dr. Shelford has taken the college viewpoint and has made his work most appealing to higher students, yet throughout there is a readableness, a simplicity of style, and a suppression of technicality which puts the book well within the comprehension of the general reader or even of high-school pupils.

In the description of conditions in a shallow lake one reads: "One of the most distinctive and characteristic forms of such lakes is a transparent true shrimp (*Palaeomonetes paludosus*), about 2 inches long, which is a close relative of some of the edible

marine shrimps. In spring they are found carrying numbers of green eggs attached to the appendages of their abdomens. Another common animal in these situations is the large polyzoan (*Pectinatella magnifica*). This is a colonial form which reproduces by budding in several directions. It also secretes a clear and transparent jelly. As the number of animals increases, the amount of jelly increases on all sides and the animals are arranged on the outside of the more or less spherical mass of jelly; the necessary increase in surface for the growth of the colony is supplied through additional secretion by each new animal added. Some of these masses of jelly reach a size of 6 inches in diameter."

Again, quoting from the account of conditions in a hickory woods: "The walking-stick (*Diaperomera femorata*) is common on the tree trunks in the fall. The red oak supports the tree cricket (*Oceanthus angustipennis*), the stinkbug (*Euschistus tristigimus*), and the oak-leaf beetle (*Xanthonia io-notata*). Felt records several insects injurious to the red oak alone. From the white oak we have taken the katydid (*Cyrtophyllus perspicillatus*), the larvae of sawflies and moths (*Anisota senatoria*), and various galls. Several weevils occur on acorns, and the twig-borer (*Elaphidion villosum*) in the twigs. The hickory supports many larvae, including a *Phylloxera* which forms galls on the leaves.

"The red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks, the red-headed woodpecker, the wood-pewee, the crow, bluejay, robin, and bluebird nest in the trees. The panther and wildcat (*Lynx rufus*) were former residents."

Many nature students have long awaited such a work as this, for there is an ever-growing movement which reverts to Agassiz's outdoor laboratory for its material, its method, its inspiration. Dr. Shelford has furnished a text-manual for this work which can be appreciated only through first-hand perusal and by the nature-lovers who really want to know. "It marks an epoch in the study of life."

The illustrations are mostly half-tones; they are original, profuse, and well explained.

H. B. S.

SCHURZ HIGH SCHOOL
CHICAGO